26th November 1928]

Action taken on the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

*619-B Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the position of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India Records Department, in relation to the Provincial Record office and its Curator;

(*b*) in what manner the Indian Historical Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India regulate the work and activities of the Madras Record office;

(*c*) whether any work has been undertaken by the Madras Record office at the instance of the Indian Historical Records Commission or the Government of India Record Department;

(*d*) what progress has been made in the direction of those items of work; and

(*e*) what action, if any, has been taken by the Madras Government in pursuance of Resolution VII of the Indian Historical Records Commission passed at its Lahore Session in 1920 regarding the linking of the University with the Record office?

A.—(*a*) The Curator of the Madras Record office is ex-officio a member of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India Records Department is ex-officio Secretary to the Commission. There is no other connexion.

(*b*) The Indian Historical Records Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India do not regulate the work and activities of the Madras Record office in any way.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) The resolution in question was brought to the notice of the University of Madras.

Preservation of records in the Madras Record office.

*619-C Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken by the Government to preserve the records in the Madras Record office in tact against the destructive action of tropical heat on the records; and

(*b*) whether the Government will consider the desirability of appointing a local committee to advise and help the Record office in the matter of securing greater access by the public to these records?

A.—(*a*) The buildings are specially designed to protect the records from damp and at the same time expose them to diffused light and fresh air. The walls are provided with glazed tiles and the records are kept in open iron racks far removed from the walls. The fluted glass windows admit diffused light; while free flow of air is ensured by providing electric fans and cowle ventilators.

The new block, which will soon be ready, is of improved design. The windows face north and south and the records will be better protected from the heat of morning and evening sun. Better ventilation is provided by exhaust fans and geared windows.

Damaged records are systematically mended. A special section consisting of one mending assistant specially trained at the Imperial Record Office, Calcutta, and a staff of attenders also specially trained, are attending to this work.

The older records are being typed and printed, and this reduces the necessity for handling the old volumes.

(b) The question of making better provision for students is under the consideration of Government. They do not think it necessary to appoint a committee for the purpose.

Civil Justice

Levy of special fee for urgent certified copies in civil courts.

* 620 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps since October 1927 to enable applicants to obtain certified copies of civil court proceedings within one day by levying a special fee as in the Registration offices?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the Government have at any time considered this matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Yes, Sir. The Government consulted the High Court and the High Court stated that the proposal was both undesirable and impracticable."

Forests

Sale of agricultural implements by the District Forest Officer, Kurnool East.

* 621 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: With reference to the notification of sale of agricultural implements by the District Forest Officer, Kurnool East, at page 46 of the Forest Supplement to the *Kurnool District Gazette*, dated 3rd August 1928, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the contractors who work the coupes mentioned in paragraph 2 of the notification are required by the contract—

(i) to earmark any species or numbers of trees for the manufacture of agricultural implements;

(ii) to maintain a register of sales of agricultural implements;

(iii) to sell these agricultural implements to the ryots of the districts in preference to others; and

(iv) to issue receipts for the amounts they receive for sale of agricultural implements at stated rates?

A.—(i) No.

(ii) No. But a register of permits showing the description of produce sold with the amount realized is maintained by contractors.